

Serial No. 09/778,467

REMARKS

This application contains claims 1-52. Claims 1-39 have been canceled without prejudice. New claims 40-52 have been added. No new matter has been introduced. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-39 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Rangan et al. (U.S. Patent 6,802,042) in view of Hooda et al. ("Managing Mobility of Users in a Virtual Network"). Applicant has canceled claims 1-39 and introduced new claims 40-52 in order to more clearly distinguish the present invention over the cited art.

New independent claim 40 recites a method for communication in which a web site comprises multiple controls corresponding to different, respective communication links with an owner of the web site. A visitor to the site is presented with a web page, which may contain only a subset of the controls, as determined by the visitor's access level. The visitor may select one of the controls in the subset in order to establish a communication link with the owner of the web site. This idea is described succinctly on pages 3-4 (paragraphs 0010-0012) of the present patent application as filed. (The "owner" of the web site is alternatively referred to in the specification as the "subscriber.") The controls for communicating with the site owner may include, for example, a "plug-in, java applet, link or button," as described in the "Possible Operations Block" section on page 9 (paragraphs 0040-0041). Determining the accessibility of different subsets of controls for different visitor access levels is illustrated, for example, in Figs. 4b-4d.

New claims 41-52 depend from claim 40 and recite further aspects of the invention, based on the specification and original claims as filed.

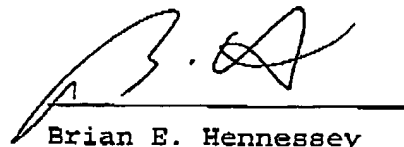
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The cited art neither teaches nor suggests the invention recited in the new claims. As noted by the Examiner in the present Official Action, Rangan does not define levels of access for web site guests (visitors), nor does he provide any sort of controls in the web site for establishing communication between a visitor and the web site owner. Although Hooda describes a messaging system that includes message filtering ("Messaging services," page 57), he makes no suggestion of presenting a web page in which only a subset of a group of controls is accessible, as determined by a visitor access level, for use in establishing communications with a subscriber. Ram (U.S. Patent 6,625,258, cited in a previous Official Action) likewise makes no suggestion of this novel approach.

Applicant has studied the additional references made of record in the present Official Action and believes that all the claims now pending in this application are patentable over these additional references, as well.

Applicant believes the amendments and remarks presented hereinabove to be fully responsive to all of the grounds of rejection raised by the Examiner. In view of these remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that all of the claims in the present application are in order for allowance. Notice to this effect is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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